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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/621,063	07/16/2003	Tonny Kaempe	23532-77	8838
7590	01/14/2004		EXAMINER	
MICHAEL A. MANN NEXSEN PRUET JACOBS & POLLARD, LLC PO DRAWER 2426 COLUMBIA, SC 29202-2426			CHAMBERS, TROY	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3641	

DATE MAILED: 01/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/621,063	KAEMPE, TONNY	
	Examiner Troy Chambers	Art Unit 3641	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 14-18 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some *
 - c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
2. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted structural cooperative relationships are: the relationship between the spring and the hollow plungers.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
2. Claims 1-6 and 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 5711103 issued to Keng. Keng discloses a bipod device.
3. With respect to claim 1, Keng discloses a hollow body 16, 56; a pair of legs 57, 58; a yoke 35; and urging means 76, 77 as claimed by the applicant (col. 5, ll. 2-17); and, a bolt connector 71.
4. With respect to claim 2, refer to Fig. 1 and col. 5, ll. 2-17.

5. With respect to claim 3, refer to Fig. 1 and col. 5, ll. 2-17.
6. With respect to claim 4, refer to Fig. 2 and col. 5, ll. 2-17.
7. With respect to claims 5 and 6, refer to col. 5, ll. 18-37.
8. With respect to claim 8, Keng discloses a hollow body 16, 59; a pair of legs 57, 58; a yoke 35; and urging means 76, 77 as claimed by the applicant (col. 5, ll. 2-17); and, a bolt connector 71 and leg housing 56.
9. With respect to claim 9, the body 16 includes ledges (the interior of cavity 28) for limiting pivoting of the yoke 35 with respect to said body. The yoke fits within the ledges precluding rotation about the body.
10. With respect to claim 10, the yoke 35 has a square body with ledges that mate with the square cavity of body 16. Yoke 35 is precluded from rotating with respect to said body 16.
11. With respect to claim 11, refer to col. 5, ll. 31-37.
12. With respect to claim 12, Keng discloses a connecting means comprising a tie element 71 received within body 59 and pivotally connecting the first ends of legs 57, 58.
13. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 4607561 issued to Frimer. Frimer discloses a firearm rest comprising a hollow body 10; a pair of legs 32, 34; a yoke 14; and urging means 33, 35 and elements of Fig. 4.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

14. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

15. Claims 5, 6, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Frimer in view of U.S. 4625620 issued to Harris. Frimer discloses a bipod as described above. However, Frimer does not disclose the telescoping legs as in claims 5-7. Harris discloses such legs including a spring-loaded button 51 that must be pushed to collapse each leg. (See figs. 5 and 7; col. 3, ll. 62 to col. 4, ll. 5). At the time of the invention, one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to provide the bipod of Frimer with the telescoping legs of Harris. The suggestion/motivation would have been to allow for the adjustment of leg height.

Allowable Subject Matter

16. Claim 13 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

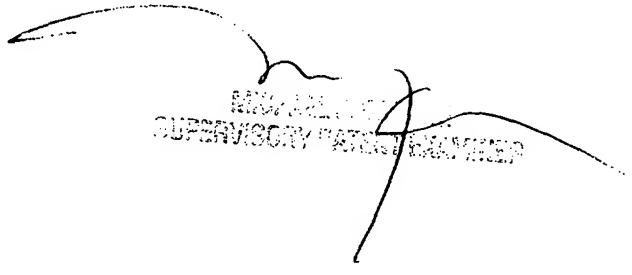
17. Claims 14-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

18. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art cited on form PTO-892 are cited as of interest to show similar bipods.

19. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Troy Chambers whose telephone number is (703) 308-5870. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael J. Carone, can be reached at (703) 306-4198.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-4177. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.



MICHAEL J. CARONE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER